

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, SS.

Board of Registration in Medicine

Adjudicatory Case No. 2016-015

In the Matter of)
)
)
FRANCIS P. COYLE, M.D.)
_____)

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 10, Francis P. Coyle, M.D. (Respondent) and the Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) (hereinafter referred to jointly as the "Parties") agree that the Board may issue this Consent Order to resolve the above-captioned adjudicatory proceeding. The Parties further agree that this Consent Order will have all the force and effect of a Final Decision within the meaning of 801 CMR 1.01(11)(d). The Respondent admits to the findings of fact specified below and agrees that the Board may make the conclusions of law and impose the sanction set forth below in resolution of investigative Docket No. 13-146.

Findings of Fact

1. The Respondent was born on March 14, 1963. He graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine in 1998. He is certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology. He has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts under certificate number 214682 since 2002. The Respondent was an active member of the staff of Lowell General Hospital (LGH) from September 2008 to March 15, 2013.

2. Over the past several years, because of work-related stress, the Respondent began to drink increasing amounts of alcohol outside of work. The Respondent's drinking of alcohol negatively impacted his demeanor and his interactions with co-workers.

3. In December 2012, the Respondent stopped drinking alcohol.

4. From January 2013 to March 2013, in an effort to diminish his cravings for alcohol, the Respondent took bottles of sevoflurane from LGH. After completing his surgeries, the Respondent would inhale the sevoflurane in his LGH office until he lost consciousness.

5. Sevoflurane is an anesthetic that depresses activity in the central nervous system and causes a loss of consciousness.

Conclusion of Law

A. The Respondent has violated G.L. c. 112, §5 ninth par. (d) and 243 CMR 1.03(5)(a)4 by practicing medicine while his ability to do so was impaired.

B. The Respondent has violated G.L. c. 112, § 5, ninth par. (c) and 243 CMR 1.03(5)(a)3 by engaging in conduct that places into question the Respondent's competence to practice medicine.

Sanction and Order

The Respondent's license is hereby indefinitely suspended. The suspension may be stayed upon the Respondent providing the Board with documentation of eighteen (18) months of continuous sobriety as demonstrated by compliances with a Physician Health Services (PHS) contract. Any stay of suspension should be at the discretion of the Board and will be contingent upon the Respondent entering into a 5-year Probation Agreement under terms and conditions that the Board deems appropriate at that time, including ongoing compliance with the Respondent's PHS substance use monitoring contract that includes urine toxicology screens, an additional

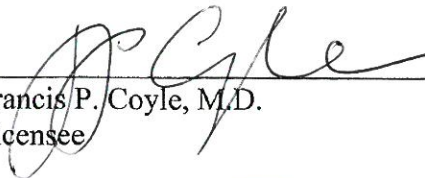
twelve random sevoflurane metabolite tests per year, participation in individual and group therapy to address addiction issues, a Board approved practice plan that includes weekly monitoring, not taking call, and specific provisions regarding Respondent's access to, use and disposition of medications including, but not limited to, sevoflurane.

Execution of this Consent Order

The Respondent shall provide a complete copy of this Consent Order and Probation Agreement with all exhibits and attachments within ten (10) days by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery to the following designated entities: any in- or out-of-state hospital, nursing home, clinic, other licensed facility, or municipal, state, or federal facility at which s/he practices medicine; any in- or out-of-state health maintenance organization with whom the Respondent has privileges or any other kind of association; any state agency, in- or out-of-state, with which the Respondent has a provider contract; any in- or out-of-state medical employer, whether or not the Respondent practices medicine there; the state licensing boards of all states in which the Respondent has any kind of license to practice medicine; the Drug Enforcement Administration Boston Diversion Group; and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Drug Control Program. The Respondent shall also provide this notification to any such designated entities with which the Respondent becomes associated for the duration of this suspension. The Respondent is further directed to certify to the Board within ten (10) days that the Respondent has complied with this directive.

The Board expressly reserves the authority to independently notify, at any time, any of


the entities designated above, or any other affected entity, of any action it has taken.



Francis P. Coyle, M.D.
Licensee

11/4/2015


Date



Paul Cirel
Attorney for the Licensee

11/4/2015

Date




James Paikos
Complaint Counsel

11/4/18

Date

So ORDERED by the Board of Registration in Medicine this 7th day of April,
20 16.



Kathleen Sullivan Meyer
Board Vice Chair